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CITY OF ST. ALBANS



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

W. NORMAN-TAYLOR, M.D. (LOND.), D.P.H., D.I.H., *F.R.S.H.*

AND

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

R. E. C. GODDARD, F.A.P.H.I., *F.R.S.H.*

FOR THE YEAR


1970

CITY OF ST. ALBANS
ST. ALBANS RURAL DISTRICT
HARPENDEN URBAN DISTRICT
ELSTREE RURAL DISTRICT

With the Compliments
of the
Medical Officer of Health

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT
BLEAK HOUSE
CATHERINE STREET
ST. ALBANS

Telephone:
ST. ALBANS 59211



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S T. A L B A N S C I T Y

HEALTH AND PROTECTION COMMITTEE

Alderman J. Farrelly (Chairman)
Councillor G. Bilsborough
Councillor M.J. Booth
Councillor E.H. Hodges
Councillor I.A. Parry, M.B.E.
Councillor J.H. Penton
Councillor R.E. Stagg
Councillor P.A. Wincott
Councillor G.C. Woollatt (Vice-Chairman)

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

C. Burns, M.B., Ch.B., D.C.H., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health (Resigned 28.6.70)

W. Norman-Taylor, M.D. (Lond.), D.P.H., D.I.H., F.R.S.H.
Medical Officer of Health (Appointed 7.9.70)

P.B.M. O'Reilly, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
Deputy Medical Officer of Health

R.E.C. Goddard, F.A.P.H.I., F.R.S.H.
Chief Public Health Inspector

L.A. Croft, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.
Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector

F.W.P. Harmsworth, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.
H. Sumner, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H. (Resigned April)
D.E. Allamand, M.A.P.H.I. (Appointed July)
M.J. Gleadow, M.A.P.H.I. (Appointed July)

J.D. Buxton
Student Public Health Inspector

J.D. Curzon, B.Sc., A.R.C.S., F.R.I.C.
Public Analyst

Miss D.M. Lack (Resigned August)
Mrs. M. Nunn (Appointed August)
Secretary

Miss K.D. Freeman
Clerk

R.H. Fox
Public Health Assistant

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

To: The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the City of St. Albans.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the Year 1970, as required by the Public Health Officers Regulations, 1959, together with the Report of your Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. R.E.C. Goddard.

I took up my post as your Medical Officer of Health on the 7th September, your previous Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Carl Burns having left on 28th June, on transfer to the London Borough of Islington. During the interim period the duties of Medical Officer of Health were exercised by your Deputy Medical Officer of Health, Dr. P. O'Reilly. To both these officers I must record my thanks for the records relating to the period before I took office, and my acknowledgement of the fact that credit for a large measure of what is recorded in the following pages, should go to them.

Recent years have witnessed a state of ferment in the field of public health. The previous government, and the present one, have been both agreed that it is time that the National Health Service was rationalised. A quarter of a century has passed since the great and, at that time, revolutionary National Health Service Act was passed. In some respects we have the finest health service in the world. Certainly it can be said that virtually no-one suffers for lack of medical attention. Our public health service too has always been in the van of progress and its pattern has been followed, or looked on with envy, by most of the rest of the world. Our system of supervising the health of the child population, of providing every general practitioner with a public-health-trained nurse (Health Visitor), of providing for the needs of expectant mothers, the old or the handicapped, of social rehabilitation of the mentally afflicted, is equalled in all respects by very few countries, on whatever side of the iron-curtain they may lie.

To our credit must now be added the fact that we have not been content to assume that there is no need for further progress. The most obvious weakness which needed to be rectified was the "tripartite" basis of the service: (1) the general practitioner, (2) the Hospital and (3) the public health service. Public Health itself was subdivided between Counties on the one hand and Districts on the other. The other weakness, in some people's minds, was the fact that social work, particularly those areas overlapping with mental health, care of the aged, and domestic help, seemed in danger of suffocation by being included in health administration. A third difficulty was that the geographical areas for hospital administration did not coincide with those for public health and social services administration.

Various committees and commissions have made suggestions for rectifying these faults. The previous Government produced two Green Papers on health service organisation, and also took the bold step of requiring Counties to set up separate Social Service Departments. The present Government has produced its White Paper on Local Government Re-organisation which states that public health (at least its

medical aspects) will no longer be a function of local government. Its final pronouncement on the health service is (as I write) still awaited but the amalgamation of the three parts of the service, under Health Boards covering areas which coincide with the upper tier authorities responsible for social services, can be assumed. The question still undecided is the "area" of the District General Hospital and the statutory responsibilities of any local committee that may be formed as far as health is concerned.

One thing remains clear, however, namely that there is a public health service in existence at the moment and that it is doing good and useful work, and its officers, doctors, inspectors and nurses, are fully stretched. This work will still have to be done, and, presumably, the same officers will continue to do it, though perhaps with different titles and reporting to different authorities. One can only hope that local involvement in health matters will not be lost in the reshuffle.

It is also clear that there are many fresh fields waiting to be entered by the public health service. Preventive work must take up new challenges; the prevention of cancer, heart disease, diabetes, and a thousand other afflictions, still await attention. Health education in the ways of healthy living must receive far more attention in this brave new world.

In the meantime, ladies and gentlemen, you continue to be responsible for safeguarding the health of the public in this City and I and Mr. Goddard, are the officers charged with executing these duties for you. In the pages which follow we give an account of the health status of the inhabitants of this City and what we have done about it on your behalf.

W. Norman-Taylor,
Medical Officer of Health

Public Health Offices,
Bleak House,
Catherine Street,
St. Albans.

April 1971.

Section A.

HEALTH STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Registrar General's Estimate of Resident Population	52,750
Area (in acres)	5,129
Number of Inhabited Houses on the Rate Books	
Dwelling Houses	17,183
Shops with Living Accommodation	239
Licensed Premises with Living Accommodation	63
Rateable Value	£3,478,058

BIRTHS

	<u>Number</u>	<u>St.Albans</u>	<u>Herts.</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>
Live Births - and Rate per 1,000 population	884	16.8	15.6	16.0
Illegitimate Live Births - and Rate % of total live births	50	6.0	5.6	8.0
Stillbirths - Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	5	6.0	10.7	13.0
Infant deaths (deaths under one year) - rate per 1,000 live births	17	19.0	14.1	18.0
Illegitimate Infant deaths - and Illegitimate infant death rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births	2	40.0	27.3	26.0
Neo-Natal deaths (deaths under 4 weeks of age) and Rate per 1,000 total live births.	10	11.0	10.7	12.0
Early Neo-Natal deaths (deaths under 1 week) and Rate per 1,000 total live births	9	10.0	9.3	11.0
Peri-Natal deaths (stillbirths and deaths under one week) - Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	14	16.0	20.0	23.0
Maternal Mortality (including abortion)	-	-	0.06	-

There was a small increase in the actual number of births (31) in the City in 1970 as compared with 1969, and the birth rate showed a very slight increase from 16.2 live births per 1,000 population in 1969 to 16.8 in 1970. The adjusted comparable birth rate of 16.6 compares with 14.7 for the County of Hertfordshire and 16.0 for England and Wales.

There were 5 stillbirths in 1970, compared with 10 in 1969, giving a stillbirth rate of 6.0 per 1,000 total live and stillbirths, compared with 12 in 1969.

Corrected Birth Rate (Crude rates multiplied by the "Comparability factor" to allow for differences in age and sex population as compared with country as a whole).

	<u>St. Albans</u>	<u>Factor</u>	<u>Herts.</u>	<u>Factor</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>
Crude Birth Rate	16.8	0.99	15.6	0.94	16
Corrected Birth Rate	16.6		14.7		16

Comments on Births

19 children died under the age of 1 compared with 16 in 1969, an increase of 3. 10 of these were under 4 weeks and 9 under 1 week.

Considering together the stillbirths, and those children who died in the first week of life (that is, those children whose death resulted as a complication of pregnancy, and childbirth), the perinatal mortality rate was 16 compared with 24.0 in 1969. Although all these rates vary from the previous year, these differences are really very small and all could be due to chance variations. The national figures for England and Wales are given for comparison.

DEATHS

Number of Deaths:	615
Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population:	11.7

There were 615 deaths in the City in 1970, compared with ~~557~~ in 1969. This gives a death rate of 11.7 compared with a death rate of 10.6 in 1969. When these figures are corrected, the death rate treated in this way becomes 12.2 in 1970 and 11.2 in 1969. The death rate for England and Wales to be compared with this is 11.7.

Corrected Rate

	<u>St. Albans</u>	<u>Factor</u>	<u>Herts.</u>	<u>Factor</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>
Crude Death Rate	11.7	1.04	9.6	1.13	11.7
Corrected Death Rate	12.2		10.8		11.7

Death, Birth, Infant Mortality, Stillbirth and Peri-Natal Mortality Rates

<u>Year</u>	<u>Death Rate</u>	<u>Birth Rate</u>	<u>Infant Mortality Rate</u>	<u>Stillbirth Rate</u>	<u>Peri-Natal Mortality Rate</u>
1947	12.6	17.9	33.0		
1948	10.2	17.2	19.2		
1949	11.5	18.2	13.1		
1950	11.3	16.3	33.3		
1951	12.0	16.4	27.6		
1952	10.6	16.5	27.1		
1953	11.5	15.6	29.9		
1954	10.8	15.4	18.5		
1955	10.3	15.9	15.2		
1956	11.0	16.3	15.8		
1957	10.9	15.5	15.0		
1958	10.5	16.9	22.3		
1959	11.5	17.6	16.3		
1960	10.8	19.3	13.7		
1961	11.6	16.5	8.5	24.9	30.8
1962	10.8	18.4	15.1	19.1	29.7
1963	11.7	18.9	18.9	13.5	24.8
1964	10.2	17.4	16.7	20.7	27.3
1965	11.3	19.3	12.9	12.8	20.6
1966	10.3	17.5	15.3	8.6	17.3
1967	10.3	16.8	24.0	16.0	26.0
1968	11.2	15.2	12.5	11.2	19.8
1969	10.6	16.2	16.0	14.0	24.0
1970	11.7	16.8	19.0	6.0	16.0

Causes of Death

(N.B. A new system of classification was introduced by the Registrar General three years ago so that these statistics are not directly comparable with those for the years previous to that).

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Enteritis and Other Diarrhoeal Disease	-	1
Late effects of Respiratory Tuberculosis	2	-
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity	2	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	1	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	5	7
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	11	7
Malignant Neoplasm, Larynx	1	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus.	32	5
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	7
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	-	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	4	-
Leukaemia	-	1
Other Malignant Neoplasms, etc.	16	17
Diabetes Mellitus	2	4
Other Endocrine etc, Diseases	-	2
Anaemias	-	1
Other Diseases of Blood, etc.	-	1
Mental Disorders	-	1
Multiple Sclerosis	1	-
Other Diseases of Nervous System, etc.	2	1
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	1	4
Hypertensive Disease	4	11
Ischaemic Heart Disease	96	62
Other Forms of Heart Disease	13	19
Cerebrovascular Disease	34	60
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	6	7
Influenza	1	4
Pneumonia	18	22
Bronchitis and Emphysema	27	8
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	8	11
Peptic Ulcer	1	-
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	1	2
Other Diseases of Digestive System	1	4
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	3
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	-
Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	2	2
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	2	-
Congenital Anomalies	3	4
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	3	-
Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	1	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents	5	2
All Other Accidents	5	7
Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	3	3
All Other External Causes	1	1
Totals:	318	297

It will be seen that the principal causes of death were, as has been usual in recent years, the following:-

	<u>1970</u>		<u>1969</u>		<u>1960</u>	
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
Cancer Lung	32	5	28	6	24	4
Cancer Stomach	5	7	6	4	5	3
Coronary	96	62	67	50	49	31
Stroke	34	60	29	54	37	61
Pneumonia	18	22	24	19	15	8
Bronchitis	21	8	17	13	19	16

Coronary and cancer of the lung are common in middle aged men and of the above totals, 16 men under 65 died of cancer of the lung and 40 died of coronary. Cancer of the stomach is not uncommon at this age, too, and 1 man under 65 died of this during the year. Only two persons died of tuberculosis, but the fact that this disease is still a major threat is shown in the figures for England and Wales below. Of the 6 suicides listed, 4 were under the age of 45.

Number of Deaths and Death Rates from
Cancer and Tuberculosis, 1970, in England and Wales

The provisional number of deaths and death rates per million population for England and Wales during the year, 1970, are as follows:-

	<u>Number</u>			<u>Rate/Million</u>		
	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Persons</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Persons</u>
Cancer of Lung and Bronchus	24,871	5,347	30,318	1,044	213	617
Other Cancer	38,373	48,494	86,867	1,610	1,928	1,773
Respiratory Tuberculosis	685	228	913	29	9	19
Other Tuberculosis	441	252	693	19	10	14

Deaths from coronary and from certain forms of cancer, particularly lung cancer, are on the increase and, while the infectious diseases, the major killers of an earlier generation, have largely been conquered by improved standards of living and hygiene, immunisation and modern methods of treatment with germ killing drugs, the degenerative and malignant diseases emerge as the great public health problem of the present. Much can be done by the individual to reduce his or her chances of succumbing prematurely to one of these conditions but unfortunately like so much good advice it is easier to give than to act upon. There is no doubt, nevertheless, that (1) dietary control to avoid overweight and intestinal stasis due to the consumption of refined foods, (2) the taking of regular exercise, and (3) the shunning of cigarettes would, if widely adopted have a dramatic effect on the figures quoted in these pages.

Section B

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Welfare Centres and Clinics

Bricket Wood - St. Luke's Church Hall

Infant Welfare	2nd and 4th Tuesdays - 2-4 p.m. (Dr. Attends)
Vaccination & Immunisation	3rd Wednesdays - 9.30-11.30 a.m.

Colney Heath - The Pavilion

Infant Welfare	1st and 3rd Tuesdays - 2-4 p.m. (Dr. Attends)
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Harpenden - 40 Luton Road
(Tel: Harpenden 2040)

Ophthalmic	Mondays - 9.30-11.15 a.m. (By appointment)
Vaccination & Immunisation	2nd & 4th Wednesday in month - 10.30-11.30 a.m. (Dr. Attends)
Speech Therapy	Tuesdays & Thursdays - 9.30-12 noon, 2-4 p.m. (By Appointment)
Infant Welfare	Wednesdays - 1.45-4.00 p.m. (Dr. Attends)
Dental	Monday } 9.30 - 12 noon to } Friday } 2-4 p.m. (By Appointment)
Cytology Clinic	Tuesdays and 2nd and 4th Thursday, 9.30 - 11.30 a.m. (By Appointment)

Harpenden - Batford J.M.I. School,
Pickford Hill

Infant Welfare	2nd & 4th Thursdays - 1.45-4.00 p.m. (Dr. Attends)
Speech Therapy	Tuesdays - 2-4 p.m.

Harpenden - Health Annexe,
Grove Road.

Infant Welfare	Fridays - 2-4.30 p.m. (Dr. Attends 2nd and 4th)
Speech Therapy	Wednesday - 2-4 p.m.

London Colney - Community Centre,
Caledon Road.

Vaccination & Immunisation	Fridays - 9.30-12 noon (Dr. Attends)
Infant Welfare	Thursdays - 1.45-4.30 p.m. (Dr. Attends)

Redbourn - Congregational Hall

Infant Welfare 2nd & 4th Tuesdays - 2.30-4.30 p.m.

St. Albans - Village Hall, Park Street

Infant Welfare Mondays - 1.30-4 p.m.
(Dr. Attends 2nd & 4th)

Vaccination & Immunisation 1st Monday - 2-4 p.m.

St. Albans - Mandeville Health Centre,
Mandeville Drive.
Tel: St. Albans 50471

Infant Welfare Thursdays - 2-4 p.m.
(Dr. Attends)

Dental Tuesdays } 9.30-12 noon
Wednesdays } 2-4 p.m.
(By Appointment)

Immunisation & Vaccination 4th Thursday - 2-4 p.m.

St. Albans - Margaret Wix Health Centre,
High Oaks.
Tel: St. Albans 56994

Infant Welfare Wednesdays - 1.30-4 p.m.
(Dr. Attends 2nd and 4th)

Speech Therapy Tuesdays - 2-4 p.m.
Dental Mondays } a.m. and p.m.
Thursdays }
(By Appointment)

St. Albans - Principal Health Centre,
Civic Centre,
Tel: St. Albans 59211

Immunisation & Vaccination Mondays - 9-12 noon
(Dr. Attends 9.30 a.m.)

Dental Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
& Friday - 9.30-12.30 p.m. : 2-5 p.m.
Saturdays - 9.30-12 noon (alternate)

Orthoptic Monday - 9-12 noon : 2-4.30 p.m.
Wednesday - 9-12 noon : 2-4.30 p.m.
Thursday - 9.30-12 noon : 2-4.30 p.m.
Friday - 9-12 noon : 2-4.30 p.m.
(By Appointment)

Ophthalmic Monday and Tuesday - 9.30-12.30 p.m.
(By Appointment)

Speech Tuesday - 9.30-12 noon : 1.30-4.30 p.m.
Thursday - 1.30-4.30 p.m.
(By Appointment)

St. Albans - Principal Health Centre (continued)

Ante-Natal	Wednesday - 2-4 p.m.
Infant Welfare	Tuesday & Friday - 1.30-4 p.m. (Dr. Attends) Foods issued Tuesday and Friday)
Audiometrician	2nd & 4th Tuesdays - 2-4.30 p.m. Fridays - 2-4.30 p.m. (By Appointment)
Audiology	2nd & 4th Wednesdays - 9.30-12 noon 2-4 p.m. (By Appointment)
Cytology	Mondays - 6.30-9 p.m. } By Fridays - 9.30-12 noon } Appointment

St. Albans - Cunningham Hill Health Centre
Cell Barnes Lane.
Tel: St. Albans 53025

Infant Welfare	Mondays - 2-4.30 p.m. Wednesdays - 2-4.30 p.m. (Dr. Attends)
Immunisation & Vaccination	1st & 3rd Thursdays - 9.30-12 noon (By Appointment)

St. Albans - Skyswood Health Centre,
Marshalswick Estate.
Tel: St. Albans 57041

Infant Welfare	Monday & Friday - 2-4.30 p.m. (Dr. Attends)
Immunisation & Vaccination	Mondays - 2-4 p.m.
Speech	Thursday - 9.30-12 noon (By Appointment)
Dental	Mondays - 10-12 noon : 2-4 p.m. Tuesdays - 10.-12 noon : 2-4 p.m. Wednesdays - 10-12 noon : 2-4 p.m. Fridays - 10-12 noon : 2-4 p.m. (By Appointment)

St. Albans City Hospital, Normandy Road Wing
Tel: St. Albans 52211

V.D. (Women)	Thursdays - 1.30-3 p.m.
V.D. (Men)	Tuesdays - 4-6 p.m.
Post-Natal	Wednesdays - 11 a.m.
Chest Clinic	Mondays - 9 a.m. (By Appointment) Wednesdays - 9 a.m. (By Appointment) Thursdays - 9 a.m. (By Appointment)

Sandridge - Parish Hall

Infant Weighing	2nd & 4th Wednesdays - 2.30-3.30 p.m.
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Shenley - Village Hall

Infant Welfare

1st & 3rd Wednesdays - 2-4 p.m.
(Dr. Attends)

Wheathampstead - Mead Hall, East Lane.

Infant Welfare

2nd & 4th Fridays - 2.30-4 p.m.
(Dr. Attends 3.00 p.m.)

Some of the County Council premises are also used by other organisations principally the Family Planning Association who hold sessions at St. Albans, Borehamwood and Harpenden, and the Blood Transfusion Service who hold Donor Sessions at St. Albans Principal Health Centre.

Hospitals

I am indebted to Mr. K.S. Robson, Group Secretary, Mid-Herts. Group Hospital Management Committee, for the following information relating to Hill End, High Wick, and St. Albans City Hospitals.

HILL END HOSPITAL

No. of Beds	793	Psychiatric
No. of Discharges	1,108	

Out-Patients

No. of New Patients	171
No. of Attendances	1,659

Day-Patients

No. of New Patients	203
No. of Attendances	8,101

X-Ray Department	3,469	Units
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Physiotherapy Department	3,646	Attendances
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HIGH WICK

Regional Unit for Psychotic and Maladjusted Children

Beds	18
Discharges	4
Waiting List	12

ST. ALBANS CITY HOSPITAL

	Beds Allocated	In-Patient Discharges	Out-Patients New Total Attendances
General Medicine	68	1,318	697 4,726
Paediatrics	20	457	362 2,304
Infectious Diseases	9	38	
Diseases of the Chest	4		848 3,991
Dermatology		1	514 1,654
Neurology			82 215
Physical Medicine			344 3,248
V.D.			359 956
Geriatrics	84	179	
General Surgery	66	1,882	1,743 6,067
E.N.T. (T. & A.))	8	155) 1,137 2,753
E.N.T. (Other))		169)
Trau. and Orth. Surgery	44	975	1,686 4,783
Ophthalmology	6	282	829 3,409
Radiotherapy			72 550
Thoracic Surgery			12 61
Dentistry		16	664 2,744
Neurosurgery			15 25
Gynaecology	24	868	905 2,702
Obstetrics - Ante-Natal)	35	983	845 6,945
- Post-Natal)			599 599
Special Care Baby Unit	12	87	
Mental Illness			226 1,019
Allergy			225 226
Private Section 1	6		
" " 4	6		
Other Medical			748 1,357
Totals	392	7,411	12,912 50,334
Accident & Emergency			13,723 24,312

Maternity:

Live Births

838

Still Births

8

X-Ray Department:

63,453 Units

Physiotherapy Department:

21,446 In-Patient Treatments

3,773 Group Exercises (In-Patients)

27,189 Out-Patient Treatments

5,290 Group Exercises (Out-Patients)

Section C

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Scarlet Fever	9
Whooping Cough	1
Measles	70
Food Poisoning	3
Infective Hepatitis	5
Dysentery	8
Meningitis	1

Food Poisoning

Three cases of food poisoning were reported in the City during 1970, and all were sporadic cases. Salmonella infections were found to be responsible for 2 of the 3 cases, and in the other the cause of the infection was not traced.

Measles

The dramatic fall in the number of measles cases, recorded last year, appears now to be over, and 70 cases were reported in 1970 as compared with 48 in 1969. This is still a small total, however, compared with previous epidemic years.

Tuberculosis

During 1970 the following new cases of tuberculosis were notified in the St. Albans City.

Age Group	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Total	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 5 years	-	1	-	-	-	1
5 - 14 years	1	1	-	-	1	1
15 - 24 years	2	-	-	1	2	1
25 - 44 years	3	2	2	-	5	2
45 - 64 years	4	1	-	-	4	1
65 years and over	1	1	-	-	1	1
Total	11	6	2	1	13	7

During the year there were 3 respiratory (1 male and 2 female) cases transferred into the Area, 14 cases were removed from the register.

The state of the tuberculosis register at the 31st December, 1970, was as follows:-

<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory</u>		<u>Total</u>
<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	
168	103	22	23	316

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Public Health Department,
36 St. Peter's Street,
St. Albans.

May 1971

To: The Right Worshipful the Mayor,
Aldermen and Councillors of the City of St. Albans

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my thirty-second Annual Report on the work of my Department carried out during the year 1970.

As the Council is aware, the itinerant caravan dwellers referred to in my last report are still present on the two unauthorised caravan sites at Cotlands Wick and Park Street Roundabout. However, the County Council is constructing a site at Barley Mow Lane, Colney Heath, and the City Council is giving active consideration to the establishment of a permanent site in the old sewage works at Park Street.

During the year two vacant posts of Public Health Inspectors were filled. More regular inspections were thus enabled to be carried out and many improvements were effected at food premises and in connection with dwelling houses and the provision of additional amenities in houses in multiple occupation.

This is my last Annual Report as your Chief Public Health Inspector and I would like to record my appreciation of the support and encouragement I have received from members of the Council since I was promoted Chief Inspector in 1939. My thanks to my fellow Officers for their co-operation; to the Public Analyst, Mr. J.D. Curzon for his advice and assistance and in particular to the many members of the staff who have passed through and to those still engaged in the Department.

I am,
your obedient Servant,

R. E. C. GODDARD

Chief Public Health Inspector

INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The following is a summary of visits made during the year:-

Public Health Acts

Houses, Primary Inspections	211
Revisits	616
Moveable dwellings	135
Infectious Diseases	91
Theatres, Cinemas & Public Halls	1
Swimming Pools	35
Rivers, Streams & Ditches	1
Drainage	179
Dirty & Verminous Premises	12
Dilapidated Premises	10
Keeping of Animals	18
Sundry Nuisances	107
Hairdressers	2

Clean Air Act

Smoke Observations	96
Boilerhouses	8
Smoke Nuisances	43
Pollution Measurements	313

Housing Acts

Houses, Primary Inspections	166
Revisits	284
Overcrowding	6
Houses in Multiple Occupation	149

Factories Act

Factories with Power	18
Building Sites	6

Food Premises

Visits - See later section

Noise Abatement Act

Noise Observations	68
Nuisances Investigated	63

Pet Animals Act Inspections

22

Animal Boarding Establishments Act

8

Riding Establishments Act

4

Miscellaneous Visits

428

Interviews

410

DEFECTS REMEDIED AND SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT

The defects and nuisances remedied or abated were 202, and one hundred and twenty preliminary and eighty four statutory notices were served in connection therewith.

In addition to these notices, the abatement of insanitary conditions is effected by an interview with those directly concerned.

The following summary gives particulars of work carried out as a result of inspections:-

GENERAL

Roofs renewed or repaired	23
Chimney stacks rebuilt or repaired	3
Rainwater gutters/pipes renewed or repaired	23
External walls rebuilt or repaired	4
Wall or ceiling plaster renewed or repaired	17
Floors renewed or repaired	4
Windows or doors renewed or repaired	13
Fireplaces renewed or repaired	2
Stairs renewed or repaired	3
Sub-floor ventilation provided	1
Dampness abated	17
Ventilation provided or improved	1
Yards and passages paved or repaired	1
Accumulations removed	3
Dustbins provided	9
Repairs to water supplies	1
Sinks and basins provided	4
Drains provided or repaired	6
Inspection chambers provided or repaired	4
W.C. provided or rebuilt	3
W.C.'s repaired	8
Gullies provided or repaired	3
Drains and cesspools cleansed	7
Dirty premises cleansed	1
Premises rat-proofed	3
Dangerous & dilapidated structures dealt with	1
Overcrowding abated	3
Smoke nuisance abated	4
Noise nuisance abated	3
Other nuisances abated	5
Miscellaneous	22

FOOD REGULATIONS

Rooms cleansed	6
Equipment cleansed	3
Food and equipment washing facilities improved	9
Staff washing facilities improved	6
Food storage improved	7
Other matters remedied	6

HOUSING

HOUSES IN CLEARANCE AREAS AND UNFIT HOUSES ELSEWHERE

A. Houses Demolished

In clearance areas:-

	Houses Demolished	Displaced during year	<u>Persons</u> <u>Families</u>
(1) Houses unfit for human habitation	--	8	5
(2) Houses included by reason of bad arrangements, etc.	--	--	--
(3) Houses on land acquired under Section 43(2) Housing Act 1957	--	--	--

NOT in clearance areas:-

(4) As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17(1) Housing Act 1957	4	--	--
(5) Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by Medical Officer of Health	--	--	--
(6) Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under local Acts	--	--	--
(7) Unfit houses included in Unfitness Orders	--	--	--

B. Unfit Houses Closed

(8) Under Sections 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1), Housing Act 1957	21	33	13
(9) Under Sections 17(3) and 26, Housing Act 1957	--	--	--

C. Unfit Houses made Fit and Houses in which Defects were Remedied

	<u>By Owner</u>	<u>By Local Authority</u>
(11) After informal action by local authority	120	-
(12) After formal notice under		
(a) Public Health Acts	41	-
(b) Sections 9 and 16, Housing Act 1957	43	-

D. Unfit Houses in Temporary Use (Housing Act 1957)

Position at end of Year

	<u>Number of Houses</u>	<u>Number of separate Dwellings contained in column (1)</u>
	(1)	(2)
(14) Retained for temporary accommodation		
(a) Under Section 48	-	-
(b) Under Section 17(2)	-	-
(c) Under Section 46	-	-
(15) Licenced for temporary occupation under Sections 34 or 53	-	-

E. Purchase of Houses by Agreement

	<u>Number of Houses</u>	<u>Number of occupants of houses in column (1)</u>
	(1)	(2)
(16) Houses in Clearance Areas other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Order, purchased in the Year	-	-

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

There are ninety-two caravans in the City stationed singly or in groups.

The corporation owns two sites, one at Drakes Drive, which holds thrity-eight caravans, and one at Cell Barnes Lane, which holds eight caravans.

PET ANIMALS ACT 1951

This Act came into force on 1st April 1952, and the City Council adopted the recommendations of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals regarding conditions of licence.

Five licences were renewed during the year.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT 1963

Three premises within the City are licenced under the above Act. Regular visits have been made and they are found to be well maintained.

RIDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT 1964

One premises is licenced under the above Act and is found to be well conducted.

SWIMMING BATHS

Water at the Corporation Swimming Baths in Cottonmill Lane is obtained from the main supply of the Colne Valley Water Company.

Regular inspections of the Bath have been carried out and twenty-two samples, eleven from the shallow (inlet) and eleven from the deep (outlet) end were taken covering the period May to September, and all proved to be satisfactory. Satisfactory reports were also received on samples of water submitted periodically from the Verulamium Paddling Pool.

In addition, samples were taking during the same period from the pools at St. Albans School, and St. Albans High School. This work is advisory and is done in co-operation with the school authorities.

WATER SUPPLIES

The whole of the City area is served from public water mains direct to the houses with the exception of a very small number of houses in proposed Clearance Areas, where the supply is by means of stand-pipes.

Quarterly samples of water from the mains supply of the Colne Valley Water Company have been submitted to the Public Analyst for bacteriological examination, and all the samples were very satisfactory.

SEWERAGE

With the exception of a few houses connected to cess-pools, all properties are on main drainage, the whole of the City being within the area of the West Herts Main Drainage Authority.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

PREMISES

The following table shows the visits paid to food premises during the year:-

Slaughterhouses	2
Butchers' Shops and Stalls	28
Fishmongers	14
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	21
Grocers	115
Fried Fish Shops	11
Other Food Shops	23
Bakehouses	14
Licenced Premises	54
Restaurants, Dining Rooms and Kitchens	119
Factory Canteens	8
Mobile Canteens	4
School Canteens	5
Other Food Premises	29
Dairies and Milkshops	85
Ice Cream Premises	90
Water Cress Beds	17
Food Vehicles	7

As will be seen from the foregoing, regular inspections of food premises have been carried out throughout the year.

A list of food condemned at these and other premises is included in a later paragraph.

All food stalls on the Saturday market have been visited regularly, and the stallholders have co-operated well in the handling and displaying of foodstuffs.

PRESERVED FOODS, ETC.

Fifty-one premises are registered for the preparation and manufacture of preserved food such as sausages, fish frying, ham cooking and meat pickling.

FOOD COMPLAINTS

Sixty-five complaints received regarding food and food containers include the following:-

Tinned Salmon containing small pieces of glass but examination showed the particles were the result of natural crystallisation.

Maggots in cake - two complaints - larvae from imported walnuts used in decorating the cakes.

Metal nut in sliced loaf of bread - fined £15.

Metal rivet in coconut candy - fined £15.

Cigarette in open top pie - fined £25.

Fly in meat pie - fined £30.

Tinned Shrimps - discolouration of the inside of tins containing Alaskan shrimps. Importers withdrew the whole shipment pending investigation.

Packet of Chicken Soup alleged to have caused sickness. Sample submitted to the Public Health Laboratory which reported that the soup was normal and could not have been responsible for the consumer's sickness.

Wasp in jar of Apricot Jam. Satisfied with precautions taken by the manufacturers.

Brussels Sprouts locally grown said to have unpleasant taste when cooked but the remainder from the complainant cooked in the office appeared to be normal.

Glass in bread from smashed electric light tube. Committee satisfied with action taken by the bakery company in immediately stopping production and destroying dough for 400 loaves.

An examination by the Public Analyst, of a sample of brightly coloured pink prawns, imported from the U.S.A. and procured from a fish stall in the St. Albans Market, had revealed that the prawns were artificially coloured. The colour used was permitted under the Colouring Matter in Food Regulations 1957 and any treated or processed fish product could be artificially coloured, but under the Labelling of Food Regulations 1970, a food which was artificially preserved or coloured would have to bear some statement to that effect on or near the container or label, as from 4th January 1973.

AIR POLLUTION

Recording of air pollution commenced in St. Albans in 1963 and has continued since. Smoke and sulphur dioxide are the two pollutants measured, the results being part of the national survey of the Department of Trade and Industry at Stevenage.

Over the years there has been a gradual reduction in the amount of smoke in the air but sulphur dioxide has not decreased to the same extent.

In 1970 the reduction of smoke pollution decreased quite dramatically but there was a slight increase in the amount of sulphur dioxide recorded.

The improvement as far as smoke is concerned is because smoke from industry and railways has ceased to be a problem. Industry being more efficient in its use of fuel because of its high cost and railways no longer using steam engines. Domestic smoke is now the principal pollutant and this is gradually reducing as the traditional open coal fire goes out of favour.

The dispersal of air pollutants is, of course, influenced by weather conditions and the number of foggy days recorded was less than in the previous year.

Plans for four new boiler plants were approved and four chimney heights recommended based on the memoranda issued by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

HEALTH EDUCATION

Lectures and talks have been given to various groups on the work of the Department, including the Civil Defence Emergency Reserve, Nursery Nurses and Home Helps.

School children have also been helped on project studies such as pest control and housing.

Another successful food hygiene course was held in conjunction with the St. Albans Rural District Health Department and the College of Further Education. Fourteen students engaged in the food trade were successful in obtaining the Certificate of the Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene. It is pleasing to report that as in previous years the majority of the successful students were from the school meals service.

NOISE

Complaints were received of excessive noise from demolition works in the centre of the town. A large printing works was being demolished, part of which was of recent construction in re-inforced concrete. Work on the site took a considerable time, pneumatic drills having to be used for long periods to break up the structure. As this was in a confined area, operations caused annoyance to nearby occupants, especially when the drills were used without mufflers. At times operators left the mufflers off the drills as they are said to impair efficiency and also tend to overheat in hot weather. However, I insisted that mufflers be used at all the demolition time.

The compressors in use were also very noisy, but in the latter stages of the operation quieter ones were used.

Occasionally users of pneumatic drills on various road works etc., have had to be reminded that it is obligatory to use mufflers which are invariably provided by their employers, but they sometimes discard them for reasons previously stated.

Concern was expressed at the increased noise from aircraft using Luton Airport and the City Council agreed that representations should be made to the Airport Authority, Herts County Council, Members of Parliament, etc.

Complaint was received from the occupier of a semi-detached house of noise from piano playing next door. The persons concerned could not agree on what might be reasonable hours for this activity. I decided that this could not be dealt with under the Noise Abatement Act and recommended private action.

PEST CONTROL

a) Rats and Mice

Compared with the previous year there was again a slight decrease in the number of premises treated for rat and mice infestation. The number of premises involved were : for rats 614 and mice 52.

Warfarin is the poison generally used for rats and owing to the difficulty in killing mice with this poison, zinc phosphide is often used.

There are sixteen annual contracts arranged for dealing with treatments in business premises and 34 such premises were dealt with on casual contract.

b) Verulamium

The lake islands were inspected and no infestation was discovered.

c) Other Pests

391 wasps nests were destroyed, again more than in the previous year.

62 pigeons were destroyed, less than in the previous year.

41 squirrels were destroyed. These ~~two~~ latter pests only represent a small proportion of the population, and it is not possible to deal with all complaints which arise as this work is time consuming and access is not always easy.

ICE CREAM

(a) Premises

Premises (including nine registered during the year) for the sale of ice cream under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955 are as follows:-

Manufacture and sale of ice cream	2
Sale of Ice Cream	192

(b) Bacteriological Examination

The results of the bacteriological examination of ice cream during the year were satisfactory.

Of the forty-five samples examined, twenty-six were placed in Grade 1, eight in Grade 2, six in Grade 3 and five in Grade 4.

(c) Chemical Examination

Four samples of ice cream were submitted for chemical analysis and the Public Analyst reported that they were of good quality and complied with the requirements of the Food Standards (Ice Cream) (Amendment) Order 1953.

MILK AND DAIRIES

Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations 1959

Number of premises registered as Dairies at 31.12.70	1
Number of persons registered as Distributors at 31.12.70	41

Milk (Special Designation) Regulations 1963

Number of persons holding at 31.12.70:-

Dealers' Licences authorising the use of the Special Designation "Ultra Heat Treated"	18
Dealers' (Pasteuriser's) Licences	1

Dealers' Licences authorising the use of the
Special Designation "Pasteurised"

36

Dealers' Licences authorising the use of the
Special Designation "Sterilised"

20

The following table shows the results of the bacteriological examination of "Designated" milk during 1970. In the course of these examinations "Pasteurised" milks are submitted to the Methylene Blue and Phosphatase Tests.

The figures in brackets refer to the corresponding results in 1969.

Designation	No. of samples	Methylene Blue Test		Phosphatase Test	
		Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed
Pasteurised	48 (46)	48 (46)	-	48 (46)	-
Pasteurised Channel Island	40 (23)	40 (23)	-	40 (23)	-
TOTALS	88 (69)	88 (69)	-	88 (69)	-

FOOD AND DRUGS

The Public Analyst (Mr. J.D. Curzon, B.Sc., A.R.C.S., F.R.I.C.) reports on samples submitted during the year, as follows:-

"The number of samples examined under the Food and Drugs Act for the year ending 31st December amounted to 152, of which 64 were Formal and 88 Informal. There were 64 Formal samples of Milk.

The following table shows the average composition of the milk samples as compared with those submitted during the previous twelve months.

	January 1969 to <u>December 1969</u>	January 1970 to <u>December 1970</u>
Fat	3.78%	3.67%
Solids-non-fat	8.86%	8.83%

It will be seen from the above table that there has been a slight decrease in both the average fat content and the solids-non-fat content as compared with the previous year which I do not find significant.

All the samples of milk were up to standard and complied with the Sale of Milk Regulations in respect of their general composition and were free from preservatives.

A miscellaneous selection of samples of various kinds has been examined during the year and these can most conveniently be divided into three categories:-

Foodstuffs
Spices
Drugs.

Foodstuffs

Shredded Beef Suet
Malted Milk
Plum Jam
Redi Milk
Malt Vinegar
Raspberry Jelly

Instant Coffee
Orange Marmalade
Lemon Curd
Custard Powder
Canned Tomatoes
Mincemeat

Mixed Fruit Jam
 Margarines
 Baking Yeast
 All strength Yeast
 Nutbrawn
 Orange Squash
 Lemon Drink
 Dubonnet
 Low Calorie Orange Drink
 Cooking Fats, various
 Cooking Oil
 Twirl
 Cream
 Apricot Jam
 Rice
 Minced Steak
 Creamed Rice Milk Pudding
 Sponge Pudding

Stuffed Pork Roll
 Brewers Yeast
 Dried Yeast
 Salt-free condiment
 Gravy Mix
 Lemon Squash
 Lime Juice Cordial
 Orange Drink
 Lards, various
 Low Fat Spread
 Corn Oil
 Vegetable Oil
 Savoury Stuffing
 Olive Oil
 Sage and Onion Stuffing Mix
 Evaporated Milk
 Tomato Puree

The above samples of foodstuffs were all satisfactory.

Eight samples of Pork Sausages and one sample of Beef Sausage were submitted to me for examination during the year and I set out below the average meat content of these samples:-

Beef	79%
Pork	70%

The meat content found in six of the samples of Pork Sausages complied with the minimum requirements of the Sausage and Other Meat Products Regulations 1967 which came into force at the beginning of June 1969. I reported against the remaining two samples of Pork Sausages as being deficient in meat by respectively 9% and 12% of the minimum of 65% of meat which is required by the Order. I understand that further Formal follow up samples are being taken. The amount of Sulphur Dioxide found in all of these Sausages were within the permitted limit. The meat content of the Beef Sausage was satisfactory.

Spices and Herbs

White Pepper, various
 Dried Herbs

Curry Sauce
 Dried Mint

These were all of good quality and no complaint could be made as to their composition.

Drugs

Halibut Liver Oil Capsules, which were satisfactory.

Town Supply Water

I have made, as usual, during the twelve months under review, a quarterly examination of the St. Albans Water supply, and am pleased to be able to report that it continues to possess a high degree of bacteriological purity and is, in every way, suitable to be used for both drinking and other general domestic purposes.

Your Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. R.E.C. Goddard, also submitted to me during the year under review, certain special samples and I will now refer to these.

Ice Creams

Four samples of Ice Cream were submitted, three of them being Dairy Ice Cream. The amounts of fat and of skimmed milk solids found in these samples was satisfactory. I also confirmed that the fat in the Dairy Ice Creams consisted only of butter fat.

Foam Filled Pillow

A foam filled pillow was submitted with the complaint that the pillow had been responsible for nausea and headaches. There was a definite odour associated with this pillow which I found reminiscent of moth balls. I was able to detect the presence of a trace of free phenol in the foam filling, but the amount found would not result in any danger to health.

Ornamental Pool

A sample of water taken from the Ornamental Pool at the St. Albans Centre was submitted because the fish in the pool had died. My findings were that the water was in good condition and should have supported fish life.

American Prawn

An American Prawn was submitted which I found to contain artificial colouring matter. Unfortunately the legal position regarding this

addition will not be certain until the new Labelling of Food Order comes into force.

Cress and Cress Waters

Samples of treated and untreated cress together with a sample of water taken from the cress beds have been submitted to me. There is a small amount of contamination present in the cress bed water and also in the untreated cress, but this is completely removed by the dipping into hypochlorite solution which the cress receives before being sold.

Orange Squash

A sample of Orange Squash was submitted which was taken from the same consignment as another bottle, the contents of which was alleged to have caused sickness. I carried out a chemical and microbiological examination of this sample with completely satisfactory results.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking your Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. R.E.C. Goddard, F.A.P.H.I., F.R.S.H., his Deputy, Mr. L.A. Croft, and their colleagues in the Public Health Department, for the valuable co-operation I have received from them."

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

Two hundred and ninety-five visits were made for the inspection of meat and other foods, and the following list shows the food condemned.

Beef	202 lbs.
Bacon	578 lbs.
Ham	185 lbs.
Cheese	123 lbs.
Cereals	286 lbs.
Pork Luncheon Meat	13 lbs.
Wet Fish	293 lbs.
Miscellaneous	8 lbs.
Tinned Meats	276 tins
Tinned Tomatoes	1294 tins
Tinned Vegetables	962 tins
Tinned Fish	91 tins
Tinned Fruit	1512 tins
Tinned Milk & Cream	56 tins
Rice	70 tins
Fruit Juice	168 tins
Miscellaneous Tins	1008 tins
Baked Beans	39 tins

Frozen Foods

Vegatables	209 pkts
Meat	117 pkts
Fish	111 pkts
Mousse	72 pkts
Cakes	7 pkts

A P P E N D I X

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

PART I OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors):-

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	18	1	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	275	21	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	9	1	-	-
Total	302	23	-	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found:—

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	4	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	2	2	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	1	1	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	3	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	10	10	—	—	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Outwork (Section 133)

Nature of Work	Number of outworkers in August list required by Section 133 (1)(c)	Number of cases of default in sending lists of the Council	Number of prosecutions for failure to supply lists
Making etc. Wearing) Cleaning apparel) and Washing	10 -	- -	- -
Other classes of work	4	-	-
Total	14	-	-

